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Page 8



Beauty & the Beach

Page 9

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Page 8

George Santos pleads not guilty to duping donors

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ and MICHAEL R. SISAK
Associated Press

CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y. (AP) — U.S. Rep. George Santos, infamous for fabricating his life story, pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges he duped donors, stole from his campaign and lied to Congress about being a millionaire, all while cheating to collect unemployment benefits he didn't deserve. Santos said afterward that he wouldn't drop his reelection bid, defying calls to resign.

Santos' 13-count federal indictment was a reckoning for a web of fraud and deceit that prosecutors say overlapped with the New York Republican's fantastical public image as a wealthy businessman — a fictional biography that began to unravel after he won election last fall.

Santos, 34, was released on \$500,000 bond following his arraignment, about five hours after turning himself in to face charges of wire fraud, money laundering, theft of public funds and making false statements to Congress. He surrendered his passport and could face up to 20 years in prison if convicted.



U.S. Rep. George Santos leaves the federal courthouse in Central Islip, N.Y., Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Continued on Page 3

Associated Press

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U.S. will let in at least 100,000 Latin Americans to reunite with families



An asylum-seeker carries her baby past U.S. Border Patrol agents as they wait between the double fence along the U.S.-Mexico border near Tijuana, Mexico, Monday, May 8, 2023, in San Diego.

Associated Press

By **JULIE WATSON**
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — As President Joe Biden's administration prepares for the end of asylum restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is offering some new legal options for people — especially families — to come to the United States. The administration said it will admit at least 100,000 Latin Americans seeking to reunite with family members in the United States, but it has released almost no details. The plan

was announced as restrictions tied to a public health law, known as Title 42, were set to expire Thursday.

A look at the new legal pathway for Latin Americans to join their relatives in the United States:

HOW WOULD PEOPLE APPLY?

During a recent visit to the border city of Brownsville, Texas, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas said people would apply for permission to join their families in the United States at re-

gional processing centers. The government plans to open 100 such hubs across the Western Hemisphere, with the first ones starting in Guatemala and Colombia. The centers will handle requests for family reunification parole, Mayorkas said, along with applications for the U.S. refugee program and humanitarian parole for those deemed to be particularly vulnerable, which is decided on a case-by-case basis.

WHO WILL BE ELIGIBLE?

The new family reunification parole program is for immigrants from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Colombia who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents and who have gotten approval for their petitions to bring over immediate family members.

The U.S. government said eligible people will receive an invitation to participate. The government will provide advance travel authorization for individuals who are approved and people will be eligible to apply for authorization to work in the United States

while they wait for their immigrant visas.

The administration said more information will be released in mid-June.

It's unclear if there will be age restrictions. Generally immigrants and refugees in the U.S. have been allowed to petition only for immediate family members, such as a spouse or child. To be considered a child, the person must be unmarried and under 21 years of age. All other family members such as siblings, cousins and adult children are not eligible for family reunion. Immigration attorneys say some immigrants have been waiting for years to be reunited with their spouses and children.

WHY 100,000?

It's unclear why the administration has said it intends to welcome as many as 100,000 people from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador under the family reunification parole processes.

Julia Gelatt of the Migration Policy Center said U.S. State Department data shows at least 284,000 Latin Americans have filed fam-

ily sponsorship petitions. That includes 78,000 Salvadorans, and up to 57,000 Hondurans, 58,000 Guatemalans, and 56,000 Colombians.

But it's unclear if those waiting have since found other options, she said.

Immigration attorney Sarah Gavigan, who works at the Central American Resource Center or Carecen in San Francisco, also wondered if the 100,000 reflects the actual number of backlogged family petitions from those countries.

Gavigan applauded the creation of a new family reunification program, while criticizing other Biden administration rules that she says penalize people fleeing harm who go to the border to apply for asylum.

WILL IT MIRROR OTHER HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS OFFERED RECENTLY?

Immigration attorneys believe the new family reunification parole program is the latest effort of a model that started when the United States brought in 100,000 Ukrainians following Russia's 2022 invasion of the country. □



Ted Henifin, left, the City of Jackson water system third-party administrator, addresses media questions during a news conference at City Hall as Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba listens on Dec. 5, 2022, in Jackson, Miss.

Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A federal appointee is managing the water system in Mississippi's capital city, and the same might soon be true for the city's sewer

system.

U.S. District Court Judge Henry Wingate said at a Tuesday hearing that he plans on placing Jackson's sewer system under the au-

Jackson's water manager may also take over the city's sewer system

thority of Ted Henifin, who was appointed in November to address the city's water troubles. The water system partially failed in August, and for days people had to wait in line for water to drink, bathe, cook and flush toilets.

The sewer system has also been beset by problems for years. The city agreed to enter a consent decree in 2012 with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to prevent the overflow of raw sewage and bring the

city into compliance with the Clean Water Act. Reports required by the consent decree showed that 4.7 billion gallons of untreated or partially treated wastewater were dumped into the Pearl River between March 2020 and February 2022.

"Every day that goes by, we run the risk of escalating our problem," Wingate said at the Tuesday hearing.

The federal judge ordered attorneys to write an order that would combine the

city's sewer consent decree with its federal order that resulted in Henifin's appointment, WLBT-TV reported. Wingate requested that attorneys finish the draft in two weeks.

Henifin said if he were to manage the sewer system, he would contract out most of the repair work, just as he does with the water system. "I don't have time to train staff, buy equipment," Henifin said. "This is the best we can do to make this happen fast." □

George Santos pleads not guilty to duping donors

Continued from Front

"This is the beginning of the ability for me to address and defend myself," a cheerfully combative Santos told reporters swarming him outside a Long Island federal courthouse. He said he's been cooperating with the investigation and vowed to clear his name, calling his prosecution a "witch hunt."

His lawyer, Joseph Murray, was more circumspect, saying: "Any time the federal government comes after you it's a serious case. We have to take this serious." Murray said it was too early to discuss whether Santos would consider a plea deal.

Santos said his immediate plans involved returning to Washington, where his indictment is amplifying doubts about the freshman's ability to serve. House Republican leaders are taking a wait-and-see approach, saying Santos is innocent until proven guilty. Others are reiterating previous calls for Santos to step aside.

"I think we're seeing that the wheels of justice grind slow, but they grind fine," said Sen. Mitt Romney, a Utah Republican who confronted Santos on the House floor at President Joe Biden's State of the Union address in February.

Asked about Santos on Wednesday, Biden said, "I'm not commenting," adding that anything he said would be construed by some as interfering in the investigation. Asked if Congress should expel Santos, Biden said, "That's for Congress to decide."

Among the allegations, prosecutors say Santos induced supporters to donate to a company under the false pretense that the money would be used to support his campaign. Instead, they say, he used the money for personal expenses, including designer clothes and credit card and car payments.

Santos also is accused of lying about his finances on congressional disclosure forms and obtaining un-



U.S. Rep. George Santos speaks to the media outside the federal courthouse in Central Islip, N.Y. on Wednesday May 10, 2023.

Associated Press

employment benefits while he was making \$120,000 a year as regional director of an investment firm that the government shut down in 2021 over allegations that it was a Ponzi scheme.

The indictment "seeks to hold Santos accountable for various alleged fraudulent schemes and brazen misrepresentations," U.S. Attorney Breon Peace said. "Taken together, the allegations in the indictment charge Santos with relying on repeated dishonesty and deception to ascend to the halls of Congress and enrich himself."

Santos didn't directly address the specifics of the charges to reporters, but when asked why he received unemployment benefits while employed, Santos cited a job change and confusion during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Santos, sporting his usual crewneck sweater, blazer and khakis, said little during the arraignment, which lasted about 15 minutes. Reporters spilled from the gallery to the jury box, joined by a handful of constituents.

"He should be thrown out of Congress and put in prison," declared Jeff Herzberg, a Long Island resident

who spent hours waiting to see Santos' arraignment. "I hope that day comes soon." Santos was elected to Congress last fall after a campaign built partly on falsehoods. He told people he was a wealthy Wall Street dealmaker with a substantial real estate portfolio who had been a star volleyball player in college, among other things.

In reality, Santos didn't work at the big financial firms he said employed him, didn't go to college and struggled financially before entering politics. He claimed he fueled his run largely with self-made riches earned from brokering deals on expensive toys for wealthy clients, but the indictment alleges those boasts were also exaggerated.

In regulatory filings, Santos claimed he loaned his campaign and related political action committees more than \$750,000, but it was unclear how he would have come into that kind of wealth so quickly after years in which he struggled to pay his rent and faced multiple eviction proceedings.

In a financial disclosure form, Santos reported making \$750,000 a year from

a family company, the Devolder Organization, but the charges unsealed Wednesday allege that Santos never received that sum, nor the \$1 million and \$5 million in dividends he listed as coming from the firm.

Santos has described the Devolder Organization as a broker for sales of luxury items like yachts and aircraft. The business was incorporated in Florida shortly after Santos stopped working for Harbor City Capital, the company accused by federal authorities of operating an illegal Ponzi scheme.

In November 2021, Santos formed Redstone Strategies, a Florida company that federal prosecutors say he used to dupe donors into financing his lifestyle. According to the indictment, Santos told an associate to solicit contributions to the company and gave the person contact information for potential donors.

Emails to prospective donors falsely claimed that the company was formed "exclusively" to aid Santos' election bid and that there would be no limits on how much they could contribute, the indictment said.

Santos falsely claimed that the money would be spent on television ads and other campaign expenses, it said.

Last October, a month before his election, Santos transferred about \$74,000 from company coffers to bank accounts he maintained, the indictment said. He also transferred money to some of his associates, it said.

Santos' legal troubles date to his late teens, when he was investigated in Brazil for allegedly using stolen checks to buy clothes — a case that authorities say they've since reopened the case.

In 2017, Santos was charged with theft in Pennsylvania for allegedly using thousands of dollars in bogus checks to buy puppies from breeders. That case was dismissed after Santos claimed his checkbook was stolen and someone else took the dogs.

Federal authorities have separately been looking into complaints about Santos' fundraising for a group that purported to help abused pets. A New Jersey veteran accused Santos of failing to deliver \$3,000 he raised to help his dog get needed surgery. □

Mom of Virginia boy who shot teacher takes responsibility

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (AP) —

Four months after a 6-year-old Virginia boy shot and wounded his teacher as she taught class, an attorney for the boy's mother said it still is not clear how the boy got the gun.

Police have said Deja Taylor legally purchased the gun used in the Jan. 6 shooting and Taylor's attorney, James Ellenson, has said she believed her gun was secured on a high closet shelf with a trigger lock. In an interview ABC's "Good Morning America" aired Wednesday, Ellenson said no one knows how he got it. "People have talked to him about that, but I don't know that any adult knows exactly how he got the gun," Ellenson said.

Taylor said her son has ADHD and while attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder might affect others mildly, she described her son as "off the wall," saying he "doesn't sit still ever."

Ellenson has said the boy was under a care plan that included a family member accompanying him to class every day. The week of the shooting was the first



Students return to Richneck Elementary in Newport News, Va., on Jan. 30, 2023.

Associated Press

when a parent was not in class with him. The change was made because the boy had started medication and was meeting his goals academically, Taylor said. Taylor was charged last month with felony neglect and reckless storage of a firearm. A trial date of Aug. 15 has been set. Ellenson has said Taylor wants to reach a plea agreement

with prosecutors.

The felony neglect charge is punishable by up to five years in prison. The misdemeanor charge of recklessly storing a firearm is punishable by up to one year in jail. The boy will not be prosecuted.

Taylor said she does feel responsibility for the shooting and apologized to the teacher, 25-year-old Abi-

gail Zwerner.

"That is my son, so I am, as a parent, obviously willing to take responsibility for him because he can't take responsibility for himself," Taylor said.

"I just truly would like to apologize ... she did get hurt. We were actually kind of forming a relationship with me having to be in the classroom. And she is really

a bright person." Zwerner was shot in the hand and chest as she sat at a reading table in her first-grade classroom at Richneck Elementary. She spent nearly two weeks in the hospital, has had four surgeries and later told NBC she sometimes "can't get up out of bed." The boy was sent to another school, but allowed his return for first grade this school year, Zwerner's lawsuit states.

The Newport News School Board argues her injuries fall under the state's workers compensation act and cannot be addressed through her suit. The board pushed back against Zwerner's claims that the child should not have remained in her class, saying he was in the process of being evaluated and treated for possible ADHD — which causes inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity. Even if he had been found in need of additional services, state and federal laws would have applied "for the purpose of keeping such children in the classroom with their peers when possible." □

Vermont governor signs 1st-in-nation shield bills that explicitly include medicated abortion

By LISA RATHKE
Associated Press

Vermont's Republican governor signed abortion and gender affirming shield bills into law Wednesday that are the first in the country to

explicitly include protecting access to a medication widely used in abortions even if the U.S. Food and Drug Administration withdraws its approval of the pill, mifepristone.

The bills protect providers from discipline for providing legally protected reproductive and gender affirming health care services.

"Today, we reaffirm once again that Vermont stands on the side of privacy, personal autonomy and reproductive liberty, and that providers are free to practice without fear," Republican Gov. Phil Scott said in a statement.

In the identical bills passed by the House and Senate, "reproductive health care services" includes "medication that was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for termination of a pregnancy as of January 1, 2023, regardless of the medication's current FDA approval status." Planned Parenthood believes other states' shield

laws will cover the issue but that Vermont's law makes it explicit, according to Lucy Leriche, of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England.

Last month, the U.S. Supreme Court preserved women's access to the drug, rejecting lower-court restrictions while a lawsuit continues. The justices granted emergency requests from the Biden administration and New York-based Danco Laboratories, maker of mifepristone, which are appealing a Texas lower court ruling that would roll back FDA approval of mifepristone. The next step in the case is arguments before the New Orleans-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit on May 17.

"Unfortunately, we can't

say how these legal protections will actually play out based on what happens in the Fifth Circuit Court, and likely appeals to that decision no matter what happens," said Isabel Guarnieri, of the Guttmacher Institute, which describes itself as a research and policy organization that advances sexual and reproductive health and rights, by email. "All we know is that there's going to be a ton of chaos and confusion."

Greer Donley, an associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law who is an expert in abortion law, said states cannot allow medications the federal government prohibits. But that does not mean the federal government would enforce its ban if states go their own way. □



Vermont Gov. Phil Scott delivers his State of the State address remotely from the Pavilion office building, Jan. 5, 2022, in Montpelier, Vt.

Associated Press

U.S. to limit asylum at Mexico border as COVID-19 restrictions end

By MARIA VERZA, COLLEEN LONG and MORGAN LEE
Associated Press

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — The Biden administration on Thursday will begin denying asylum to migrants who arrive at the U.S.-Mexico border without first applying online or seeking protection in a country they passed through, marking a fundamental shift in immigration policy as the U.S. readies for the end of a key pandemic restriction. The new rule represents a significant shift in the way the U.S. deals with asylum seekers who have been showing up at the border in huge numbers in anticipation of this week's end of the use of a restriction known as Title 42 that allows the government to quickly expel migrants to Mexico. U.S. officials warned of difficult days ahead as the program tied to the COVID-19 pandemic expires this week.

The rule announced Wednesday is part of new measures meant to crack down on illegal border crossings while creating new legal pathways, including a plan to open 100 regional migration hubs across the Western Hemisphere, administration officials said. U.S. officials have detailed steps they've taken to prepare for what many are expecting to be a substantial increase in migrants attempting to enter the U.S.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas warned that the days and weeks ahead have the "potential to be very difficult."

"Our plan will deliver results but it will take time for those results to be fully realized," he said.

In Ciudad Juarez, migrants continued to arrive this week in small groups by train or bus and leave daily to surrender to the U.S. authorities. Fran Tovar, a 30-year-old electrician from Venezuela who left

two children behind to try to reach the U.S., was crossing on Wednesday.

"There is fear and anguish," said Tovar, adding that he has spent three months in Juarez trying to get an appointment through an app the U.S. has encouraged migrants to use to present themselves at a border entry point and seek admission.

Tovar was expelled from the U.S. on his first attempt, then tried again 24 hours later. He was worried because after Title 42's use expires, he could face tough consequences.

The COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions have allowed border officials to quickly return people and they did so 2.8 million times since March 2020. But after the restrictions expire Thursday, migrants caught crossing illegally will not be allowed to return for five years. They can face criminal prosecution if they do. Even with the restrictions in effect, border crossings rose to all-time highs.

The measure announced Wednesday is a key part of the U.S. strategy. While stopping short of a total ban, it imposes severe limitations on asylum for those crossing illegally who didn't first seek a legal pathway. It includes room for exceptions and does not apply to children traveling alone. It was first announced in February and takes effect Thursday.

It's almost certain to face legal challenges. A federal appeals court prevented similar but stricter measures pursued by then-President Donald Trump in 2019 from taking effect.

The Biden administration emphasized the complex dynamics at play when it comes to immigration that at one time consisted largely of adults from Mexico seeking to come to the U.S. They could easily be returned home. Now migrants come from across the Western Hemisphere



A young migrant swims across the Rio Grande river to the U.S. from Matamoros, Mexico, Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

Associated Press

and beyond.

The rule was immediately met with criticism.

"With its new rule formalizing sweeping restrictions on asylum access, the Biden administration is putting border politics ahead of the safety of refugees," said Jeremy Konyndyk, the president of Refugees International.

U.S. officials also said they planned to open regional hubs around the hemisphere, where migrants could apply to go to the U.S., Canada or Spain. Two hubs were previously announced in Guatemala and Colombia. It's unclear where the other locations would be. The administration officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing border plans that were not yet public.

The measures are meant to fundamentally alter how migrants go to the U.S. southern border as officials brace for large numbers to cross this week, possibly to circumvent the new rules. Others were waiting until after Title 42 goes away, thinking their chances might be better.

Roughly 24,000 law enforcement officers were stationed along the 1,951-mile (3,140-kilometer) border with Mexico. An additional 1,500 active-duty military troops are being sent to back up U.S. Customs and Border Protection but will not interact with migrants. And 2,500 National Guard troops are already there, tasked to help out CBP. The Democratic ad-

ministration will return migrants from Haiti, Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua to Mexico if they do not apply online, have a sponsor and pass a background check.

It will admit 30,000 per month from those nations to the U.S. Mexico will continue to take back the same number who cross illegally.

Immigration officials also plan to deploy as many as 1,000 asylum officers to conduct expedited screenings for asylum seekers to more quickly determine whether someone meets the standard to stay in the U.S. Mayorkas said migrants taken into U.S. custody will be given an initial option to turn back because of the increased consequences of removal after Title 42 expires.

Most of the people going to the U.S.-Mexico border illegally are fleeing persecution or poverty in their home countries. They ask for asylum and have generally been allowed into the U.S. to wait out their cases. That process can take years under a badly strained immigration court system, and it has prompted increasing numbers to go to the border hoping to get into the U.S.

Authorities have spent months setting up interview rooms and phone lines at facilities along the border to facilitate screenings, part of a broad effort to expand the use of expedited removal proceedings aimed at migrants who cross illegally into the U.S. □

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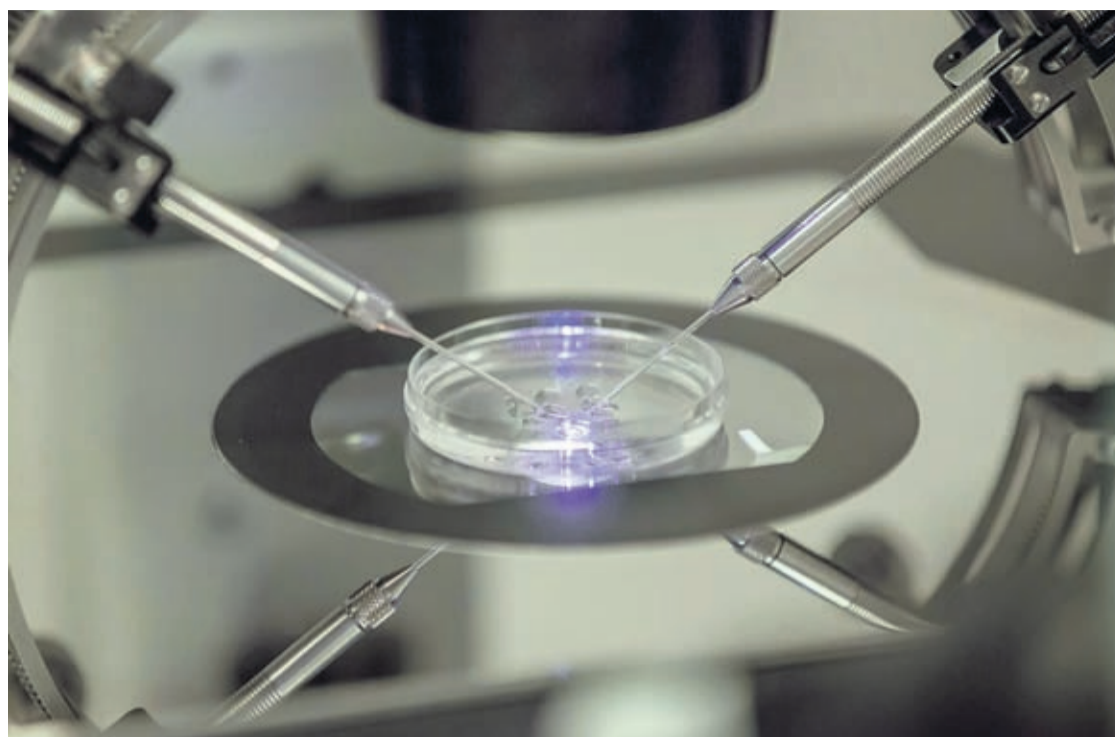
By **MARIA CHENG**
AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP)—Britain's fertility regulator on Wednesday confirmed the births of the U.K.'s first babies created using an experimental technique combining DNA from three people, an effort to prevent the children from inheriting rare genetic diseases.

The Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority said fewer than five babies have been born this way in the U.K. but did not provide further details to protect the families' identities. The news was first reported by the Guardian newspaper.

In 2015, the U.K. became the first country to adopt legislation regulating methods to help prevent women with faulty mitochondria the energy source in a cell from passing defects on to their babies. The world's first baby born using the technique was reported in the U.S. in 2016.

The genetic defects can result in diseases such as muscular dystrophy, epilepsy, heart problems and intellectual disabilities. About



An embryologist works on a petri dish at the Create Health fertility clinic in south London, Thursday, Aug. 14, 2013.

Associated Press

one in 200 children in Britain is born with a mitochondrial disorder. To date, 32 patients have been authorized to receive such treatment. For a woman with faulty mitochondria, scientists take genetic material from her egg or embryo, which is then transferred into a donor egg or embryo

that still has healthy mitochondria but had the rest of its key DNA removed. The fertilized embryo is then transferred into the womb of the mother. The genetic material from the donated egg comprises less than 1% of the child created from this technique. "Mitochondrial donation treatment offers

families with severe inherited mitochondrial illness the possibility of a healthy child," the U.K. fertility regulator said in a statement Wednesday. The agency said it was still "early days" but it hoped the scientists involved, at Newcastle University, would soon publish details of the treatment.

Britain requires every woman undergoing the treatment to receive approval from the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority. The regulator says that to be eligible, families must have no other available options for avoiding passing on genetic disease. Many critics oppose the artificial reproduction techniques, arguing there are other ways for people to avoid passing on diseases to their children, such as egg donation or screening tests, and that the experimental methods have not yet been proven safe.

Others warn that tweaking the genetic code this way could be a slippery slope that eventually leads to designer babies for parents who not only want to avoid inherited diseases but to have taller, stronger, smarter or better-looking children.

Robin Lovell-Badge, a stem cell expert at the Francis Crick Institute, a biomedical research center in London, said it would be critical to monitor the babies' future development. □

22 dead women, no names: Interpol seeks clues on cold cases

By **JOHN LEICESTER**
Associated Press

PARIS (AP)—The 22 women mostly met violent deaths. Their bodies, some dismembered, were found in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands over a span of 43 years the most recent in 2019. Police say some showed signs of abuse or starvation.

But who they were is unknown, frustrating detectives' hunts for their killers. Police hope that may change with the launch Wednesday of Operation Identify Me. The international appeal with Interpol is seeking public help to put names to the women. Such a breakthrough would, at a minimum, enable police

to no longer have to identify the victims by their distinguishing features or apparel "the woman with the flower tattoo," "the woman with the artificial nails" or locations where their remains were discovered. The oldest of the cold cases, "The girl in the parking lot," dates back to 1976. Her body was found along the A12 highway in the Netherlands. She is believed to have been between 13 and 20 years old when she died. Interpol, the international police liaison organization based in Lyon, France, distributed black-and-white facial reconstructions of some of the victims. Hers showed a young woman with long, dark hair and bright eyes. In a statement that quoted Dutch, German and Belgian police, Interpol said some of the women are believed to have come

from Eastern Europe and that their bodies were possibly left in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany to confound investigations. "Most of the 22 victims died violently, and some were also abused or starved before they died," Dutch police said. Police hope that learning their names might also provide evidence about possible perpetrators. It might also allow them to establish whether any of the cases are linked. "In similar investigations, establishing the victim's identity ultimately has led to the arrest of a suspect," said Anja Allendorf of the German police. Interpol is making details about each case public on its website, at www.interpol.int/IM. As well as facial reconstructions of some of the women, it also includes images of jewelry and oth-

er items found with their remains, and contact forms for people who may have any information about the cases.

Susan Hitchin, who coordinates Interpol's DNA unit, said identifying the women could help bring closure to their family members.

"It's horrendous to go all these years without having any news, not knowing what's happened. And however dreadful it may be to get that confirmation that their loved one has died, it is part of an important process in order to grieve and to move forward," she said in a phone interview.

"Hopefully a member of the public will be able to bring some new elements that the police can use that will ultimately provide the identity to these victims and ideally help lead to the perpetrator, if there is one." □



This photo of a notice posted on the Interpol Website on Wednesday May 10, 2023 shows an international appeal to identify female murder victims.

Associated Press

The Aruban government signs agreement for security camera project

(Oranjestad)—During a press conference yesterday afternoon, the minister of Justice and Social Affairs, Mr. Rocco Tjon, in collaboration with the director of energy company Elmar N.V., Anthony Irausquin, signed an agreement regarding the installation of 40 security cameras around the island in the new project from the ministry of Justice.



Minister Tjon explained that in line with the plan of management from the ministry of Justice and Social Affairs, this is a focus to invest in technology and innovation. For this, there has already been an investment made in this project since last year.

This project consists of different phases, all which have already been approved. As it can be noted, the entire hotel area along the coast of Aruba—also called the “hot zones”—is already equipped with security cameras. The second phase concerning the city center of San Nicolas has already been approved, and as the government had announced one month back, after the evaluation of the project pilot of security cameras during the carnival period, all partners in the project approved of this initiative. It is for this reason that the minister and Elmar N.V. have now signed a new agreement for the third phase of the project. The third phase consists of 40 strategic locations around the island in which cameras will be installed to amplify the security around the areas and help fight crime.

Minister Tjon further explained that the process of choosing the locations was in the hands of a work group from the Police Corps of Aruba, in collaboration with a work group from Elmar N.V. These two work groups have considered the information they received from KPA, including statistical figures, so that the cameras could be installed in key locations to

help fight crime better. For this, they have also considered locations such as the night clubs around the hot zones and roundabouts around the island as key places to install security cameras.

Minister Tjon also informed that during the upcoming two weeks, there will be signs placed that indicates the presence of a security camera in the vicinity, as is legally mandatory. Citizens and visitors may then also know in which zones these cameras are placed.

“We are already seeing success in different phases of the project. Two weeks ago, I was addressing my fellow MPs and I received a question about crime figures. We were able to present to parliament that there has been a drastic decrease in terms of the crime figures,” he remarked.

With the beginning of the new phase, he added that they will commence the construction of the Operation Command Center in the district of Savaneta. This task will be executed with the help from telecommunications company Setar N.V.

Tjon also highlighted that it is indeed important to invest in these types of technology, but at the same, we have to keep in mind the human factor, because at the end of the day, the images compiled will be analyzed and shared with different judicial department, keeping in mind all the rules and requirements for this.

The Operation Command Center will be housing personnel from different department to make sure that

this institution is running 24 hours a day.

In terms of the technical aspect of this project, Elmar N.V. is in charge with everything that falls under this category. The director explained that this is a first step for them and as already mentioned, they will soon start with the installation of the 40 cameras from phase three.

Irausquin recalls the beginning of the year, where Elmar had to unexpectedly install 35 security cameras for the royal visit, and this, he remarked, was a great way to begin the pilot project.

In terms of the company itself, the director explained that they started the project

called ‘smart grid’ a few years back, with the vision to one day start with a project for security cameras. The first part consisted of connecting the smart meters with the smart grids, and now it is time to install the cameras.

“It’s a grid with which we actually want to transition into a smart city, and you can see that in less than 10 minutes, we can install one cameras and move on to the next one. This is also telling of how successful these cameras are going to be and how we can quickly move and adapt on KPA’s petition,” he signaled.

Irausquin also explained that at any moment where there is a big event and KPA request the installment of extra cameras in other

locations, we can easily install or make necessary modifications with our new system.

During the carnival period, cameras have been installed on different parade routes to try this project out. At that time it has been mentioned that these were temporary cameras and would be taken down after carnival. These cameras, according to Irausquin, confirmed the re-installment of these cameras and 40 additional ones during the new phase of the project.

Finally, Minister Tjon assured that the maintenance of these cameras is also included in the project—and thus in its budget as well. □

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Plaza Tino Ruiz has become a reality!



ORANJESTAD - On Saturday, May 6, 2023, the inauguration ceremony of the plaza that bears the name Plaza Tino Ruiz took place.

For this occasion, guests gathered at the police precinct in Noord to honor the fallen police officer Tino Ruiz and his family.

In 2009 Tino Ruiz started the Watty Vos Police Academy and graduated in 2013. Tino worked as a sergeant at the Noord police pre-

cinct and was an exemplary, helpful, empathetic, and very dedicated police officer with a lot of passion for his work.

The work of police officers involves many risks. People often do not realize this work's impact on the lives of the police officers and their families. Being a police officer is more than just wearing a uniform. They are fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons, or daughters who risk their lives every

shift to serve and protect the community. Every time police officers start their shift, they hope to make it through and get home safe.

On July 3, 2017, relatives, police colleagues, and the whole community were shocked by the tragic news that Sergeant Tino Ruiz was killed in the line of duty and that Tino would not go home after his shift. This news was extremely hard for his fellow police officers, who had not lost a police officer in the line of duty before.

With this plaza, they want to give the Aruban police its value within the community and create awareness about the dangerous work of police officers. The plaza also serves as a symbol to cultivate brotherhood among the police. □



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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Aruba Beach Club

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. This wonderful couple were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Ma-sha Danki" to guests whom have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba

Mr. Arthur & Mrs. Stephanie Langbaum from New York, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Aruba Beach Club bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Langbaum for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". We are incredibly thankful to have such wonderful visitors who still keep choosing Aruba after so many years!

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the Langbaum's were:

The wonderful people of Aruba

Aruba's warm consistent weather all year round

Aruba's family atmosphere

Aruba's nice sandy beaches

Aruba's variety of restaurants to choose from







Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Carla and Shyla from Canada**. They visit often and they love the weather and the safety. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

This segment is sponsored by Alhambra Casino and Shops.





Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas



SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barbershop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment. Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an



urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you

can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't

miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □



Origin of Papiamentu- Aruba's native language

ORANJESTAD — Papiamentu, Creole language of ABC (Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao) is from the Cape Verdean Creole family (Cape Verdean language) and was taken to the Caribbean in the 9th century by the Cape Verdeans of that time (linings and slaves), experts in cane culture and sugar production, and who were hired by Jewish entrepreneurs who went to invest in this business in the Caribbean. Cape Verdeans taught this pre-industrial revolution technology (planting cane and producing sugar, which they had learned from Madeirans) to slaves from other African regions, and did so in their language, Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language), hence the language implanted in Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

Unlike many interesting stories, wanting to link Papiamentu directly to Portuguese, Galician or Castilian (see Papiamentu, on Wikipedia - Portuguese version and Spanish version, where the Portuguese and Spanish, each claim the direct



origin of Papiamentu), in fact, this is not true. Papiamentu is not direct from Portuguese, Galician or Castilian, it is from the Cape Verde Creole family (Cape Verdean language). You can see this best when it's saying obscene words and offending someone, precisely as they say today in both ABC and Cape Verde islands. The obscene words kept the original, had no lexical influence either from Castilian or Dutch. Also the PapiCristang of Malacca, the Patuá of Macau, and several creoles from the east (from Daman, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia) and Africa

(Casamança, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, these last two releases to the English), all originated in the Creole of Cabo Verde (Cape Verdean language), which was the French language spoken in Portuguese feitorias on the coast of Africa (from Senegal to Sierra Leone), and which was taken east by the thousands of cable - Verdeans (linings and slaves, already Christianized and speaking Creole) who served as sailors and "slaves of arms" in Portuguese caravels, demanding the east. I don't know why the official history of Portugal usually omits this



fact, which is in the chronicles of the quincentist chroniclers, but which we never saw in the history of Portugal that we study from primary education to higher education. However, it has always been tried to deceive us, in colonial time, that we were descendants of Viriato (Iberian hero in the fight against the Romans) and the pastors of the Hermini Mountains, but not much speaking of our black-African ancestry. We Cape Verdeans understand each other very well with these Antillans and Easterns, whose language is from the same Creole family of Cape

Verde (Cape Verdean language), speaking their Creole and we ours. Therefore, Papiamentu, PapiCristang, PatuáMacaense and the creoles, said of Portuguese origin, Daman, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, some locations in the Philippines and some places in Indonesia, are creoles of the language family Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language) and indirectly the Galaico-Duriense or Galaico-Portuguese, a language that the people spoke in Portugal in the 6th and 7th century.

Anonymous
Source: Dushi Aruba



ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history,

Create museum memories

which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm. For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to

preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the muse-

um's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 45 Plane
- 1 Baby's features
- bed
- 46 Forest growth
- 5 Multiplied by
- 10 Gave an edge
- 12 Operative
- 13 Holmes's beloved
- Irene
- 14 Terra —
- 15 Notice
- 16 Stifle
- 18 May honoree
- 20 "Roses — red"
- 21 Banish
- 23 Composer Rorem
- 24 Dozes
- 26 Formerly owned
- 28 Singer Waits
- 29 Fill fully
- 31 Bill dispenser
- 32 Commotion
- 36 Monastery address
- 39 Mine matter
- 40 Roofed patio
- 41 Moses of the track
- 43 Decree
- 44 Out of style
- DOWN**
- 1 Gorge
- 2 Roping contest
- 3 Harbor
- 4 Worker, e.g.
- 5 Folded food
- 6 "— You Babe"
- 7 Flam-mable gas
- 8 Went in
- 9 Was rude, in a way
- 11 The Lorax's creator
- 17 "— Miniver"
- 19 Bunny move
- 22 Instructed
- 24 Clause in a sports contract
- 25 Cleaner additive
- 27 Deter-mined
- 28 Restau-rant units
- 30 Mock
- 33 Instruc-tional
- 34 Great Lakes tribe
- 35 Tears
- 37 Diplomatic skill
- 38 Success-ful songs
- 42 River stopper

S	C	R	A	P	E		O	D	E	S
H	E	A	P	E	D		R	I	G	A
E	E	Y	O	R	E		I	G	G	Y
			R	U	N	F	O	R		
W	A	T				A	L	E	R	T
A	L	I		F	O	R	E	S	E	E
D	O	G		A	I	M		S	E	X
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P	E	E	P	S			U	S	E	S
		S	P	E	E	D	S			
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T	O	E	S			C	L	A	U	D
M	U	S	E			H	E	L	P	E

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10				11		12			
13						14			
15				16	17				
18			19				20		
		21			22		23		
	24	25			26	27			
28				29	30				
31					32		33	34	35
36			37	38			39		
40					41	42			
43					44				
45						46			

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-11

CRYPTOQUOTE

UM KWP YZUXT KWP QJS YWW
RHQAA YW IIQTS Q NUMMSJSXGS.
KWP ZQLSX'Y RVSXY YZS XUZY
EUYZ Q IWRDPUYW. — QMJUGQX
VJWL.SJC

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: NO GOOD MOVIE IS TOO LONG AND NO BAD MOVIE IS SHORT ENOUGH. — ROGER EBERT

Can you afford to age in place?

By KATE ASHFORD
of NerdWallet

Most older adults ages 50 to 80 say it's important to stay in their homes for as long as they can, according to the 2022 National Poll on Healthy Aging from the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation at the University of Michigan. But only 1 in 3 said their home "definitely" has the features needed to allow them to age in place.

Aging in place isn't as simple as just staying home you must consider the costs, including those for age-related home renovations, home maintenance and caregiving. Some costs may be covered by Medicare if you meet certain requirements, but most will be fully out of pocket. "We know that about 90% of aging individuals want to age in place, but there are a number of aspects they have to consider," says Jill McNamara, senior director of enterprise operations at Care.com. From grab bars to yard upkeep, here's what you must evaluate.

CAN YOU RENOVATE?

Staying in your home usually means making modifications so you can live in it safely. Many homes in the U.S. were built in the post-war period, "when the country was young and virile and the lifespan was shorter," says Louis Tenenbaum, founder of the HomesRenewed Resource Center, a nonprofit site for research into the economics of aging in place. You'll want to think about the bathroom, the entryway and the bedroom, says Kathleen Cameron, senior director of the Na-



This April 12, 2021 photo shows houses in Knoxville, a neighborhood in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

tional Council on Aging's Center for Healthy Aging. That includes things like grab bars and a walk-in shower in the bathroom, a ramp or widened doorway if needed for home access, and a bedroom on the main floor. If you rent, you'll want to find out if your landlord would be amenable to making these sorts of changes.

Costs will depend on what you need done and where you live. Nationally, a mid-range bathroom remodel averages about \$25,000, according to Remodeling magazine although updating just a few features will cost less. Building a wheelchair ramp will run about \$1,000 to \$3,300, according to Angi, a site for finding service professionals.

These are just starting points. For someone considering these changes, "find occupational therapists or physical therapists to do a thorough home assessment and to identify what changes might be necessary for someone to age in place," Cameron says.

CAN YOU MAINTAIN YOUR HOME?

Even if you can step into the shower safely, you still may have a lawn to maintain, a kitchen to clean and a boiler that needs a kick every winter. Landscaping maintenance can run \$100 to \$300 a month, according to HomeGuide, a site for finding local home service providers. In addition, a single housecleaning can cost \$75 to \$380, depending on the size of your home.

Consider, too, that if you own your home, you may need a plumber or a handyperson things will break and you'll need repairs done. So it's not just about whether you can safely live in your house, Tenenbaum says, but also whether you can hire the services you need.

Melissa Brennan, a certified financial planner in Plano, Texas, remembers a neighbor who managed all his home maintenance tasks as he got older, including hiring a landscaping company and having his roof replaced and foundation repaired. □

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'BlackBerry' is a look back at phone war's also-ran

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**
AP Technology Writer

Almost everyone knows Steve Jobs' uncanny vision, relentless drive and technological wizardry hatched the iPhone, a breakthrough that continues to reshape culture 16 years after the late Apple co-founder introduced the device to the world.

But when Jobs unveiled the first iPhone in 2007, another smartphone was the must-have gadget. It was the BlackBerry, a device so addictive that it became known as the "CrackBerry" among tech nerds and power brokers hunched over a tiny keyboard that was best operated with both thumbs clickety-clacking.

Now the BlackBerry is "that phone people had before they bought an iPhone," a relic so irrelevant that the Canadian company that made it is now valued at \$3 billion down from \$85 billion at its 2008 peak when it still controlled nearly half of the smartphone market. But its legacy is worth remembering and audiences will get a chance to learn more about its origins in the new film, "BlackBerry." The film out Friday in theaters is the latest movie or TV series to delve into technology's penchant for groundbreaking innovation, blind ambition, ego clashes and power struggles that turn into morality tales.

That formula has already



This image released by IFC Films shows Jay Baruchel, left, and actor-director Matt Johnson, center, with cast members on the set of "BlackBerry."

spawned two Academy Award-nominated movies written by Aaron Sorkin, 2010's "The Social Network" delving into Facebook's founding and 2015's "Steve Jobs," dissecting the Silicon Valley icon. Then came last year's flurry of TV series examining the scandals enveloping WeWork ("WeCrashed"), Uber ("Super Pumped") and disgraced Theranos CEO Elizabeth Holmes ("The Dropout"), which won Amanda Seyfried an Emmy for her turn in the starring role.

Unlike any of those biopics, "BlackBerry" is told as a dark comedy revolving around two amiable but bumbling nerds, Mike Lazaridis and Doug Fregin, who can't

seem to execute their plan to create a "computer in a phone" until they bring in a hard-nosed, foul-mouthed businessman, Jim Balsillie.

Although "BlackBerry" is based on a meticulously researched book called "The Lost Signal," director and co-star Matt Johnson acknowledged taking more liberties in the movie during an interview with The Associated Press. Among other changes, Johnson cited shifting some timelines, shaping the company culture through his view of the 1990s and infusing the key characters with "our own personalities and our own ideas." But our lawyers wouldn't let us put anything in the film that was an out-

right fabrication," Johnson stressed.

Johnson had to do a lot of guesswork in his role as the enigmatic Fregin, who sold all his stock in BlackBerry's holding company then known as Research In Motion, RIM around the same time Apple released the first iPhone and has kept a low profile ever since.

"Doug is true cipher, he has never done a taped interview," said Johnson, which led him to portray Fregin as a "kind of mascot figure who is tying the culture of the office together."

Ironically, Johnson got a lot of his idea on how to depict Fregin from one of RIM's early employees, Matthias Wandel, who

posted a YouTube video critiquing inaccuracies that he saw in the "BlackBerry" trailer. Before that, Wandel talked extensively to Johnson about RIM's history and even provided diaries that he kept while during the BlackBerry's development.

"I think when he sees the film he is going to be quite charmed by how much of his original notes are in the film," Johnson said of Wandel. "It's so funny that he has released that video (because) so much of my character is based on him. I stole everything from that dude. I owe him huge."

Balsillie, RIM's co-CEO with Lazaridis, emerges as the film's most intriguing character. Actor Glenn Howerton (best known for his role in the TV series, "It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia") portrays Balsillie in a way that casts him as both the story's chief antagonist and protagonist dropping f-bombs in tyrannical temper tantrums at the same time he is making savvy moves that turned the BlackBerry into a cultural sensation.

"It always felt like this was a guy who weirdly felt a little outside of sort of what people would consider to be sort of a titan of technology or business," Howerton said of Balsillie during an AP interview.

"I played him as someone who had something to prove at almost all times, that he could play with the big boys." □



Robert De Niro attends the world premiere of "Amsterdam" at Alice Tully Hall on Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

Robert De Niro, at 79, becomes a father for the 7th time

By The Associated Press

Robert De Niro has welcomed another child. The 79-year-old is now the father of seven.

A representative for De Niro confirmed the birth to The Associated Press on Tuesday. No other details, including the identity of the mother, were released.

At a film premiere Tuesday night, De Niro told The Associated Press about becoming a father again: "It's

always good and mysterious and you don't know what the hell is going to happen." The Oscar winner is also a parent to Drena, 51, and Raphael, 46, from his first marriage to Diahne Abbott; and twins, Julian and Aaron, 27; Elliot, 24; and Helen Grace, 11, from his second marriage to Grace Hightower. De Niro and Hightower announced they were divorcing in 2018. De Niro is currently pro-

moting the new comedy "About My Father," which opens on May 26.

De Niro is a two-time Oscar winner for his supporting role in "The Godfather: Part II" and best actor in "Raging Bull." In 2011, he was also honored with the Golden Globes' Cecil B. DeMille Award for his impact on the world of entertainment and awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom five years later. □

PGA Championship has 99 of top 100 in the field for Oak Hill, no Sergio Garcia

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

The PGA Championship stuck to its mission of getting the strongest field of the four majors, announcing a field Wednesday that includes 99 of the top 100 in the world ranking no matter what tour they play. Missing from the 155-player list is Sergio Garcia, the former Masters champion who had been eligible for every major dating to the 1999 British Open at Carnoustie. Kerry Haigh, the chief championships officer for the PGA of America, had said in February that players from all tours would be considered to assemble a strong field, and he delivered a field that looks no different from previous years.

The PGA Championship starts May 18 at Oak Hill just outside Rochester, New York.

The field has 18 players from Saudi-funded LIV Golf the same number from the 89-man field at the Masters last month.

That includes Phil Mickelson, who won the 2021 PGA Championship at Kiawah Island at age 50 to become the oldest major champion.

He missed his title defense last year while taking time off after his inflammatory comments about both the Saudis and the PGA Tour.

The only player from the top 100 not in the field is Will Zalatoris, who is No. 9 in the world and out for the rest of the season after surgery on his lower back. Tiger Woods is not playing, either, because of ankle surgery last month that likely will keep him out of the next two majors.

LIV Golf still does not get Official World Golf Ranking points for its 48-man fields and 54-hole events while its application remains under review.

A number of players who fell out of the top 100 were not invited: Cameron Tringale (103), Jason Kokrak (110), Sebastian Munoz (111) and Kevin Na (117).

Kokrak, Na and former British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen (163) were at the Masters from having been among the top 50 at the end of last year. Oosthuizen, a runner-up at Kiawah Island two years ago, had been eligible for every major dating to 2009.

Garcia's history in the majors goes back another decade. The last time he was

not eligible was for the U.S. Open in 1999 he was 19 and in his second month as a pro. Garcia did not play the 2020 Masters held in November because he tested positive for the coronavirus. The Spaniard currently is No. 189 in the world.

The PGA of America does not say what constitutes a special invitation, though it offered one to Webb Simpson (No. 150 in the world ranking) and LIV player Paul Casey (131).

Casey tied for fourth at the PGA Championship in 2021 and did not return last year after missing four months with a back injury.

One spot in the field remains for the winner of this week's AT&T Byron Nelson if not already eligible for the PGA Championship. The PGA typically uses its points list a PGA Tour money ranking over the last 12 months to fill spots in the field.

Next in line would be Alex Smalley, who was born in Rochester. Smalley is No. 102 in the world ranking and withdrew from the Byron Nelson earlier this week. Justin Thomas is the defending champion. He rallied from seven shots behind last year at Southern Hills and defeated Zalatoris



Captain Sergio Garcia looks on from the 18th fairway during the final round of LIV Golf Singapore at the Sentosa Golf Club on Sentosa Island in Singapore on Sunday, April 30, 2023.

Associated Press

in a three-hole aggregate playoff. It was the second PGA title for Thomas.

Among other players receiving special invitations were Danish twins Nicolai and Rasmus Hojgaard, both among the top 115 of the world ranking. Rikuya Hoshino (No. 125) received an exemption. He finished second on the Japan Golf Tour money list last year.

The only major champions from the last 10 years who are not in the PGA Championship are Garcia (2017 Masters), Henrik Stenson

(2016 British Open) and Bubba Watson (2014 Masters), all of them with LIV Golf.

The PGA of America gave an invitation to Francesco Molinari, whose five-year exemption from winning the 2018 British Open ran out last year.

Molinari missed the 2020 PGA Championship because he did not play all summer while riding out the COVID-19 pandemic with his family in London. He now is No. 132 in the world. □

Coach K to the NBA: Mike Krzyzewski joins league as special adviser

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

Mike Krzyzewski is coming out of retirement and heading to the NBA as an adviser, not a coach.

The league said Wednesday that Krzyzewski, the Hall of Famer and all-time men's college Division I coaching wins leader, is its new special adviser to basketball operations. He will be present next week at the league's general managers meeting in Chicago, coinciding with the draft lottery and combine there. "We are honored to have Coach K join the NBA family and share his vast experience and expertise with the league and our teams," said Byron Spru-

ell, the NBA's president of league operations. "As a preeminent coach and re-

nowned leader who cares deeply about the game of basketball, he is uniquely

suited to drive discussions and offer insights about the present and future of the NBA."

The former Duke coach "will provide counsel to the league office, NBA team executives and other leaders across the league on a host of issues related to the game," the league said.

Krzyzewski retired after the 2021-22 season with five national championships along with a slew of records including 1,202 wins at the men's Division I level, 13 Final Four appearances, 36 NCAA Tournament trips and 101 NCAA Tournament game wins.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to deepen my connection to the NBA and

participate in conversations about further strengthening the league and the game," Krzyzewski said.

"Even in my retirement from coaching, my passion for the sport has never been higher. This role will enable me to stay engaged with basketball at the highest level."

Krzyzewski turned down opportunities to join the NBA as a coach multiple times during his Duke career. He worked with NBA players through his long stint as coach of USA Basketball's senior men's team going 88-1 in that role with three Olympic gold medals, two Basketball World Cup gold medals and one gold in the FIBA AmeriCup. □



Retired Duke Hall of Fame coach Mike Krzyzewski attends Game 2 of an NBA basketball first-round Eastern Conference playoff series between the Boston Celtics and the Brooklyn Nets, Wednesday, April 20, 2022, in Boston.

Associated Press

Volpe's 1st career GS powers Yanks to sweep of lowly A's

By **LARRY FLEISHER**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Rookie Anthony Volpe hit his first career grand slam to cap a seven-run fifth inning and the New York Yankees pulled away for an 11-3 rout of the Oakland Athletics on Wednesday to complete their first series sweep this season. Heading into a four-game series against the MLB-best Tampa Bay Rays, the Yankees have won three straight for the first time this season.

"This is just getting us ready for another big series here with the Rays," Aaron Judge said. "We were kind of back and forth down there at the Trop (Tropicana Field) and we're



New York Yankees' Anthony Volpe runs home after hitting a grand slam in the fifth inning against Oakland Athletics, Wednesday, May 10, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

looking forward to it." Harrison Bader hit a three-run homer in the first inning that was upheld after a review and DJ LeMahieu added a two-run shot in the fifth. The Yankees hit nine homers in the series. Volpe, who ended a 0-for-17 skid Tuesday, lost potential hits on sliding catches in his first two at-bats. The shortstop gave the Yankees an 11-2 lead by driving a first-pitch fastball off Rico Garcia 419 feet. "I knew I got it pretty good, but you never know," Volpe said. "It was nice to see it go over."

At 22 years, 12 days, Volpe became the youngest Yankee to hit a grand slam at Yankee Stadium.

"It's definitely in there," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said of Volpe's power. "You go out the front door like he did at 107 or something, that's a pretty good poke. We know he has power and we know he can hit the ball out to all fields." With the Yankees leading 1-0 on Gleyber Torres' sacrifice fly, Bader hit a drive off Oakland left-hander Kyle Muller (1-3) that just cleared the right field video board.

Oakland right fielder JJ Bleday attempted to make a leaping catch. A fan sitting in the front row appeared to reach over and make the catch. Replays appeared to show the fan's glove was over the padding of the fence and the homer stood after umpires initiated a review.

"There wasn't interference in terms of the play with our defender, but it did look as if the glove reached over the wall but really hard to tell," Oakland manager Mark Kotsay said. "So, I understand why the call stood." Bader's 362-foot drive continued his hot start. He is hitting .429 (12-for-28) in eight games since returning from an oblique injury. "Out of the box I was thinking double and just really fortunate that it turned out to ultimately be a home run, so that was great for the team," Bader said. □



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